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December 9 2009

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CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

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STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Supreme Court Cause No. DA 09-0578

HERMAN GONZALES; FAWN LYONS;  
KEN LAUDATO; LAWRENCE  
WALKER; GARY MANSIKKA; GARY  
GALETTI; GREG WHITING; MARVIN  
KRONE; RICHARD BLACK; JIM  
KELLY; CHRIS SOUSLEY, all others  
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs and Appellees,

v.

MONTANA POWER COMPANY;  
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION, a  
Delaware corporation; PUTMAN AND  
ASSOCIATES, INC., a Montana  
corporation; NORTHWESTERN  
ENERGY; NORTHWESTERN  
CORPORATION dba NORTHWESTERN  
CORPORATION as a reorganized debtor,  
subsequent to its plan confirmation, herein  
after referred to as NOR; and JOHN DOES  
II and III and JOHN DOES IV through XX,

Defendants and Appellants.

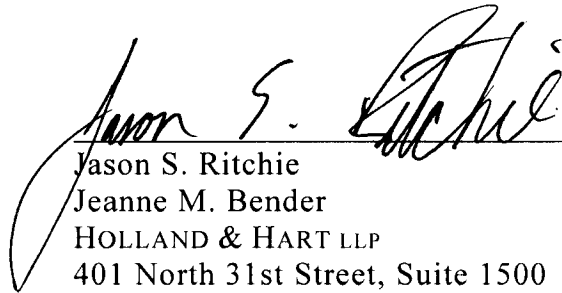
**APPELLANT PUTMAN &  
ASSOCIATES, INC.'S  
MOTION FOR EXTENSION  
OF TIME**

Pursuant to Montana Rule of Appellate Procedure 26(1), Defendant/Appellant Putman & Associates, Inc. hereby asks the Court for a 30 day extension of time from the original due date of December 31, 2009, up through and including February 1, 2010, in which to file its opening brief. This extension is necessary because of the press of other business, the appellate mediation for this matter is scheduled for January 6-7, 2010, and undersigned counsel has a previously scheduled family vacation between December 23, 2009 and January 3, 2010 to Idaho.

Despite the fact that these motions are routinely granted, counsel for the Appellees object to this motion. This is surprising given that the underlying case was filed on or about March 24, 1998 and Plaintiffs did not file a motion for class certification until November 7, 2008. After more than 10 years of delay, it is unreasonable for Plaintiffs/Appellees to object to a 30-day extension.

For the Court's convenience, a proposed order and stamped, addressed envelopes for all counsel are included herewith.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of December, 2009.



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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT/  
APPELLANT PUTMAN & ASSOCIATES,  
INC.

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Plaintiff/Appellant's Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time by depositing said copy into the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

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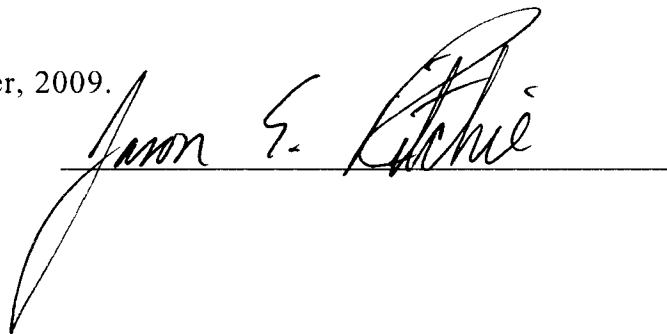
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Dated this 8th day of December, 2009.



A handwritten signature, "Jason E. Ritchie", is written over a horizontal line.